VERMONT Workforce Development Council

Monday, July 14, 2008

- 1) Establishment of the required WIA Youth Council Chip explained the need for a Youth Council and provided a list of potential members. He explained that the Council would be a committee of the WDC and provided a list of potential members that meet Federal requirements. The Committee commented that they would like the committee to consider how he WIA Youth programs could compliment State Act 46 initiatives. Chip explained that the first order of business would be for DoL staff to educate the Council on the implementation of WIA Youth programs as currently in place. Fran moved and Dave seconded a motion to approve the establishment of the Youth Council as proposed. The motion passed unanimously. John asked that as WDC Chair, he be provided with an opportunity to meet with the new Council and discuss the WDC's perspectives.
- 2) Industry Centers of Education: The item began with an overview from Dave White and Doug Webster of the concept as presented at the June full Council meeting. As noted by the DoE presenters at that meeting, most of the pieces need to create an industry center of education are in place, what is lacking is an effort to bring these pieces together and assemble them into a system. The primary partners at this point appear to be DOE, DOL, DED, Colleges and business groups and or trade associations, although others like VSAC will be needed. There is strong support for the concept and the Executive Committee is anxious to get the process moving.

Several elements were discussed as being of key importance, a substantial, structured-in role for business, clear ID of the needed workplace skills from employers, improved career awareness on the part of students, well rounded curriculum that includes occupational skills, soft skills and academic rigor, and student certifications/credentials that are respected and valued by employers.

There was considerable discussion of how to select a sector(s) to begin with. DOE has done a very thoughtful analysis that points to prominent sectors like manufacturing and healthcare, however there was also discussion of selecting a sector like food systems, or construction where there is already a high level of business readiness - and strong programs at the tech centers that might make a fast start-up more feasible. Factors to consider include; readiness of the sector, readiness of the necessary public partners, sustainability of the sector, predictable workforce needs, data to support the demand for workers, and others to be developed.

One approach that seems useful is to begin with development of a template that describes partner roles and responsibilities, and a sequence of work that could be tried out on a sector that seems ready and then used or adapted to other sectors. Fran offered to work on this before the next meeting.

Next Steps:

- 1) Determine how to select a sector perhaps revising the WDC's earlier chart developed for this purpose.
- 2) Develop a template that identifies the key components of the system.

- 3) Describe the roles of each partner perhaps developing a brief MOU for each to sign.
- 4) Identify a leader or campion for each sector identified to drive the necessary work. Subsequently, DOL and DOE set up a meeting to begin laying out action steps and a work plan.
 - 3)) Update from Pat on Next Gen. '09 roll out, schedule, etc.
 - Training
 - Internship
 - Alternative tech ed
 - Career Awareness
 - 4) Update from Pat on the work of the Leadership Committee